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August 2, 2007

TO : Guy Davenport,
Chief (acting), Sustainable Fisheries Division

FROM : Larry Beerkircher,
Pelagic Observer Program

SUBJECT: Second quarter (2007) observer coverage summary (revised).

The Pelagic Observer Program (POP) achieved a 24.1% overall coverage rate (4.6% outside the Gulf of Mexico) for the second quarter period of 2007 (April 1 to June 30). Selection letters were sent by certified mail service (return receipt) on March 15, 2007 to 22 vessel permit holders (owners and/or operators) who were selected for coverage based on fishing activity in the northwestern Atlantic (excluding the Gulf of Mexico) for notification of observer coverage. Also, on March 23rd, 2007, selection letters were sent by certified mail service (return receipt) to an additional 43 vessel permit holders (owners and/or operators) who were selected for coverage based on fishing activity in the Gulf of Mexico. The POP had the responsibility of the regular coverage requirement in the Northwest Atlantic, including 100 % observer coverage between April 15 and June 15 the Gulf of Mexico. During this quarter the POP was not involved in any cooperative research projects.

Of special note, there were two (2) vessels (Queen Mary and Shady Lady) selected for coverage for Quarter 1 (2007) which had fishing effort in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. For the purposes of this quarterly report, vessel hauls on or after April 1 until June 30, along with any incidental takes observed during this quarterly period (number of sets observed, days at-sea, animals caught) will be included in this summary. Overall during this quarter, observers spent 730 days at sea on 39 fishing vessels, which resulted in 469 hauls observed and a coverage rate of 24.1%. During the 67 observed trips (Tables 1 and 2), set effort occurred in the geographical areas of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), the Florida East Coast (FEC), the South Atlantic Bight (SAB), the Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB), and the Caribbean (CAR).

During the pelagic longline trips covered by observers, a total of 339,361 hooks were fished. The total catch observed consisted of 12,692 fish representing 48 species of fish. The catch

data was comprised of 2,316 swordfish, 74 bigeye tuna, 2,270 yellowfin tuna, 159 bluefin tuna, 48 albacore tuna, 502 other tuna species, 3630 dolphin fish (mahi), 135 wahoo, 207 billfish species, 2,217 other finfish (escolar, lancetfish, etc.), 134 skates/rays, 0 small coastal sharks, 315 large coastal sharks, and 225 pelagic sharks. During the quarter, observers also recorded incidental takes of protected species (Table 3) which included 40 sea turtles (30-leatherback-alive; 1-leatherback-unknown; 8-loggerhead-alive; 1-olive ridley-alive), in addition to 4 marine mammals (1-beaked whale-alive; 1-dolphin-alive; 1-dolphin-dead; 1-bottlenose dolphin-alive). No seabirds were observed captured this quarter, further, the POP recorded no sawfish catches during the quarter; this species is not likely to occur in the pelagic environment.

Because the majority of the trips selected and observed during this quarter occurred during the April 15th - June 15th period of 100% observer coverage in the Gulf (58 trips, 87% of total trips observed in Quarter 2, Table 2) a complete discussion on vessels not observed is not provided in this report. Instead, only vessels selected for coverage outside the Gulf of Mexico (e.g. northwestern Atlantic and Caribbean Sea) are reported on with respect to non-compliance. During the quarter, the POP did not place observers on 16 of 22 of these vessels selected (73%, Table 4); thus reducing the target coverage of the POP by 77 sets. However, it should be noted that coverage of these vessels was made difficult by the diversion of all of the POP's active observers, excepting one, to the Gulf of Mexico during April 15th - June 15th. There were seven selected vessels listed in Table 4 as not being covered due to no observer being available. These vessels reduced the POP's coverage opportunities by a minimum of 30 sets, which, if observed, would have resulted in our attaining over seven percent (7+%) coverage outside of the Gulf of Mexico. Five vessels did not take observers due to either a lack of a safety decal, lack of bunk/life raft space, or non-communication with the POP office; and the remainder (4 vessels) did not conduct pelagic longline fishing operations during the quarter. Given the extensive time and logistical demands of the 100% coverage in the Gulf, the POP's achievement of over 50% of the number of Quarter 2 target sets for the areas outside the Gulf of Mexico was unexpected.

In keeping with the BO reporting requirements from the POP office, observers filled out the turtle handling and release gear forms on 37 of the 43 second quarter covered vessels (including Gulf of Mexico vessels). Of the vessels selected and observed in Quarter 2, 97% of the vessels had the equipment needed for removing gear from turtles in the water (at least 3 of 4 items aboard), and 97% had most of the equipment for removing gear if the turtle is boated (6 or more items aboard). Additionally, 35% of the observed vessels also had the turtle tether aboard, which is voluntary at this time. A PDF document of the observer turtle gear forms will be posted on a secure site of the POP website. Finally, the cumulative

number of unique vessels observed since the effective date of the sea turtle conservation regulations (July, 2004), now stands at 86 vessels covered (Table 5).

Attachments:

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

cc: The POP office files; Gregg Houghaboom, NOAA-Fisheries
SERO/OLE liaison.

Table 1: Regular coverage (8%) of the longline fleet (excluding vessels covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico). Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory **POP** from April 1 to June 30, 2007.

Vessel Code	Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
1029594	QUEEN MARY ¹	Q02063	GOM	3	3
908223	SHADY LADY ¹	B03003	SAB	2	3
902748	WHITE WATER II ¹	S01086	FEC	8	12
NC2087WV	SARAH BRENT	W02006	SAB	2	3
NC5126DC	FINNALI	D04041	MAB	5	4
669872	EAGLE EYE	W02005	CAR	16	17
650401	SHARON G II	T02029	MAB	3	4
690722	SOUTHERN LADY	D04039	FEC	8	11
697038	REBOUND	D04040	SAB	7	9
Total		9		54	66

Table 2: Enhanced coverage of the longline fleet covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico. Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory **POP** from April 16th to June 21, 2007.

Vessel Code	Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
297535	ADAM C	B05001	GOM	10	14
297535	ADAM C	B05002	GOM	11	15
925122	BLUE FIN	S02001	GOM	2	3
919799	BLUE SEA I	M02001	GOM	10	13
911431	CAPT DAVID	A04001	GOM	11	15
911431	CAPT DAVID	A04002	GOM	5	14
668316	CAPT LUU	P03001	GOM	10	13

Table 2 (Continued): Enhanced coverage of the longline fleet covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico. Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory **POP** from April 16th to June 21, 2007.

Vessel Code	Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
905679	CAPT MIKE	G04001	GOM	7	10
905679	CAPT MIKE	G04002	GOM	3	6
907061	CAPT ROBINSON	V02001	GOM	6	11
610006	CAPTAIN MICHAEL	Q02064	GOM	11	14
610006	CAPTAIN MICHAEL	Q02065	GOM	3	6
507646	DAYTONA	S01087	GOM	9	14
507646	DAYTONA	S01088	GOM	11	15
507646	DAYTONA	S01089	GOM	11	16
942269	DE QUEEN	C03001	GOM	0	12
942269	DE QUEEN	C03002	GOM	10	16
586413	HATUNA MATATA	L03001	GOM	12	18
586413	HATUNA MATATA	L03002	GOM	9	15
1029712	KENNY BOY	B04001	GOM	7	11
1029712	KENNY BOY	B04002	GOM	4	15
904300	KIM NHI	Y04001	GOM	10	14
904300	KIM NHI	Y04002	GOM	9	13
600048	KIM THANH II	K04001	GOM	10	13
600048	KIM THANH II	K04002	GOM	9	11
600048	KIM THANH II	K04003	GOM	10	13
600048	KIM THANH II	K04004	GOM	10	13
937416	KIM THANH PN	T02030	GOM	10	15
937416	KIM THANH PN	T02031	GOM	8	16
938537	LEROY TENNISHOE	J02061	GOM	13	17
938537	LEROY TENNISHOE	J02062	GOM	12	18
938537	LEROY TENNISHOE	J02063	GOM	11	17
931858	LIEN HIEP	R04001	GOM	8	12
669893	MASTER RAY	Q03001	GOM	9	13
918933	MISS LENA	R04002	GOM	4	8
918932	MORNING STARS	X04001	GOM	1	4
902659	NIGHT STAR II	P01128	GOM	10	14
902659	NIGHT STAR II	P01129	GOM	9	15

Table 2 (Continued): Enhanced coverage of the longline fleet covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico. Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory **POP** from April 16th to June 21, 2007.

Vessel Code	Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
911014	PEACEFUL LADY	N04001	GOM	9	13
911014	PEACEFUL LADY	N04002	GOM	2	9
1029594	QUEEN MARY	Z04001	GOM	3	6
1029594	QUEEN MARY	Z04002	GOM	0	4
926359	QUEENSLAND	A03001	GOM	4	10
590729	SAO MAI I	O03001	GOM	1	3
590729	SAO MAI I	O03002	GOM	5	7
590729	SAO MAI I	O03003	GOM	5	9
923317	SEA QUEEN	T03001	GOM	11	14
923317	SEA QUEEN	T03002	GOM	5	10
995485	SEA QUEEN III	E04001	GOM	10	13
995485	SEA QUEEN III	E04002	GOM	6	10
929437	ST PAUL PETER	J03001	GOM	8	12
929437	ST PAUL PETER	J03002	GOM	3	8
932650	ST PETER	F04001	GOM	1	3
932650	ST PETER	F04002	GOM	0	2
932650	ST PETER	Q03002	GOM	8	10
991695	STAR SEA	I03001	GOM	4	8
1094947	VICTORIA	B03004	GOM	4	8
1094947	VICTORIA	U03016	GOM	11	13
Total		58		415	664

Table 3: Percent coverage (by hauls), the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for April 1 to June 30, 2006 (A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	REQUIRED 8% COVERAGE	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS	
			A	D	U	A	D	A	D
			LB/LH/O						
CAR-1	16 (100%)	0	1/	0/1	0	0	0	0	0
GOM-2	418 (49.2%)	68	29/	6/0	0	1	3	1	0
FEC-3	16 (8.0%)	16	0/	2/0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	11 (2.4%)	36	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	8 (2.9%)	22	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
NEC-6	0 (0 %)	7	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
OFFSHORE	0 (0 %)	7	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	469 (24.1%)	156	30/	8/1	0	1	3	1	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
CAR	12,384
GOM	304,451
FEC	11,029
SAB	7,841
MAB	3,656
TOTAL	339,361

Table 4: Listing of vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during quarter 2, 2007 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: **(1)**No bunk available; **(2)**Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity; **(3)** Lack of current CFVSE decal; **(4)**No communication with observer office/staff; **(5)**Not fishing (involved in another fishery); **(6)**Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and **(7)**other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
ADDIEBYRD	MD9128DB	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner contacted POP often in the Quarter, but no observer was available. POP requested 2 sets for the quarter. Logbook submissions: Reported landings on 6/27.
BOBALOU	600322	Reason 1 and 2. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP office to indicate that his vessel would be carrying 4 crew/4 bunks/4 man life raft this quarter. Owner was communicative with the POP. POP requested 4 sets for the quarter. Landings reported on 4/3, 4/26, and 6/27.
CANDACE	673556	Reason 3. Certified letter received. Vessel is currently fishing in Trinidad and no USCG examiner is available. POP requested 7 sets for the quarter. Landings reported on 4/2, 4/26, 5/14, 5/28, and 6/11.

Table 4 (continued): Listing of vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during quarter 2, 2007 (April 1 to June 30) ; excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be

based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: **(1)**No bunk available;**(2)**Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity;**(3)** Lack of current CFVSE decal; **(4)**No communication with observer office/staff; **(5)**Not fishing (involved in another fishery);**(6)**Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and **(7)**other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
CHARLESTON STAR	591301	Reason 1 and 2. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to indicate the vessel would be dolphin fishing during the quarter and would be taking an extra crewmember during that time. POP requested 4 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 5/5 and 5/22.
CLAYTON REED	683286	Reason 4. Certified letter received. No communications received from owner/operator. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Landings reported on 4/29.
DAKOTA	956008	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 4/29, 5/5, 5/29, and 6/3.
FRANCES ANNE	604915	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 11 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 4/29, 5/6, 5/23, and 6/2.

Table 4 (continued): Listing of vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during quarter 2, 2007 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: **(1)No bunk available;**(2)**Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity;**(3)** Lack of current CFVSE decal; **(4)**No communication with observer office/staff; **(5)**Not fishing (involved in**

another fishery); **(6)**Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and **(7)**other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
GRAND CRU	508393	Reason 5. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to indicate the vessel was sold and would not be fishing during the quarter. POP requested 6 sets for the quarter.
JANICE ANN	646506	Reason 4. Certified letter received. No communications received from owner/operator, but no pelagic longline landings were reported for the quarter. POP requested 3 sets for the quarter.
JOSHUA NICOLE	912738	Reason 4. Certified letter received. No communications received from owner/operator. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Landings reported on 5/4.
KNOCK OUT	617018	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 5/22, 5/26, 6/8, and 6/13.

Table 4 (continued): Listing of vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during quarter 2, 2007 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: **(1)**No bunk available; **(2)**Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity; **(3)** Lack of current CFVSE decal; **(4)**No communication with observer office/staff; **(5)**Not fishing (involved in another fishery); **(6)**Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and **(7)**other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
KRISTIN LEE	656259	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 4/7, 4/30, 5/7, 6/1, 6/10, and 6/27.
PROVIDER	602041	Reason 5. Certified letter received. The vessel did not fish during the quarter. POP requested 4 sets for the quarter.
SEVEN ARROWS	611304	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 3 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 6/20.
WATERSPORT	618782	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 2 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/15, 5/23, 5/26, 5/30, and 6/8.

Table 4 (continued): Listing of vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during quarter 2, 2007 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: **(1)**No bunk available; **(2)**Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity; **(3)** Lack of current CFVSE decal; **(4)**No communication with observer office/staff; **(5)**Not fishing (involved in another fishery); **(6)**Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and **(7)**other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
YELLOWFIN	944376	Reason 5. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to

indicate the vessel would not be fishing during the quarter. POP requested 8 sets for the quarter.

Table 5: The POP coverage completed aboard the pelagic longline fleet by quarter and year since the publication of the 2004 Biological Opinion. The number of trips observed include vessels that are covered multiple times during a quarter. The number of unique vessels observed represents those vessels only covered at least once by an observer.

Quarter	Year	No. of Vessels Selected	No. of Trips Observed	No. of Unique Vessels Observed
3	2004	44	29	29
4	2004	30	28	14
1	2005	34	26	12
2	2005	45	22	9
3	2005	41	19	7
4	2005	28	14	1
1	2006	31	20	4

2	2006	33	23	2
3	2006	39	22	2
4	2006	24	17	1
1	2007	20	17	1
2	2007	65	43	4
Cumulative Totals			280	86
